

15 FAM 840 PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT

*(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)
(Office of Origin: OBO)*

15 FAM 841 RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARMS

*(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)
(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)*

- a. Post must install smoke alarms in all residential units occupied by U.S. Government personnel. Install one single-station smoke alarm in each sleeping room, one in each corridor serving the sleeping rooms, and one at the top of the stairs on each level. Mount these smoke alarms on the ceilings by the door or on the side walls. When placed on the walls, place them no more than 30.5 cm (12 inches) from ceilings, but no nearer than 10 cm (four inches) to the ceiling to avoid dead air space in the corner formed by the ceiling and wall. The Fire Protection Division in the Operations and Maintenance Office of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OM/FIR) will provide residential smoke alarms based on real property account records.
- b. Occupants must check smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries following manufacturer's recommendation.

15 FAM 842 PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

*(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)
(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)*

Post must properly place and maintain fire extinguishers in all U.S. Government-owned and -leased buildings and in all residential units occupied by U.S. Government personnel. (See 15 FAM Exhibit 842 for extinguisher type and placement instructions.) The Fire Protection Division in the Operations and Maintenance Office of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OM/FIR) will provide fire extinguishers to posts upon request. Every fire extinguisher must be visually inspected monthly for operable condition and, as a minimum, maintained once each year. Inspection and maintenance dates must be recorded either on the extinguisher inspection tag or electronically. See Tab G-2 of the OBO Fire Protection Guide, for inspection and maintenance instructions.

15 FAM 843 EMERGENCY LIGHTING

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

- a. In office buildings where the U.S. Government is the sole occupant, the post must place and maintain emergency lights in all exit corridors and in stairwells of multilevel office buildings. In U.S. Government-owned/long-term leased (GO/LTL) structures with multifamily residential units (four or more), the post is responsible for installing emergency lights in exit stairwells on each landing and in other areas recommended by the Fire Protection Division in the Operations and Maintenance Office of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OM/FIR).
- b. Upon request, OBO/OM/FIR will provide emergency lighting units.

15 FAM 844 EXIT SIGNS

15 FAM 844.1 New Office Buildings and Major Renovations

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

- a. Exit signs must meet the standards of the International Building Code (IBC). These standards require that exit signs be:
 - (1) Self-illuminated by an internal light source or illuminated by an external light source that is capable of providing uninterrupted lighting during power outage;
 - (2) Provided in sufficient number to establish and maintain clearly marked exits and stairways;
 - (3) Manufactured in contrasting face colors with lettering of specified size; and
 - (4) Installed on the ceiling or wall above the exit doorway (pictorial illustrations are found at Tab C-1 of the OBO Fire Protection Guide).
- b. Signs installed during renovations, additions, or modifications to facilities, should be similar to existing signs to maintain continuity and ease of visual recognition.

15 FAM 844.2 Existing Buildings

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

- a. The Department uses a standard emergency sign when illuminated signs meeting International Building Code (IBC) standards are not required. This sign, referred to as the international emergency exit sign, is pictographic (illustrated by picture) and luminous (i.e., absorbs light and glows in the dark). (Pictographic signs are illustrated at Tab C-1 of the OBO Fire Protection Guide.)
- b. International emergency exit signs are not required in buildings equipped with functional illuminated signs meeting IBC standards. They may be installed in addition to illuminated signs to supplement this coverage.

15 FAM 844.3 Procurement and Funding

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

Upon request, the Fire Protection Division in the Operations and Maintenance Office of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OM/FIR) will provide exit signs. Posts will be responsible for installation.

15 FAM 844.4 Exit Sign Types and Placement

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

- a. The two basic types of signs, with placement guidelines, are:
 - (1) Exit signs placed on exit doors; and
 - (2) Directional exit signs placed above nonexit doors or on corridor walls to indicate the most direct route for emergency exiting.
- b. Warning signs must clearly state what action to take, such as stating that elevators must not be used in emergencies, and indicating the direction of the nearest exit stairway.

15 FAM 845 FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

- a. Post will be responsible for routine maintenance, operation, and repair of installed fire protection systems. The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) will support these activities by providing technical

training, policies, and guidance. This work is defined under routine maintenance and repair in 15 FAM 621.

- b. OBO will support fire protection system needs that are beyond post's capability. Normally, post personnel perform these repairs with guidance and material provided by OBO. For extensive repair and upgrade of fire protection systems, OBO initiates the projects.
- c. OBO will provide fire protection system replacement and spare parts for U.S.-made fire protection systems.

15 FAM 846 EGRESS

15 FAM 846.1 Unlocking Exits During Business Hours

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

Exit doors must be equipped with locks to provide after-hours security. These doors must remain unlocked during business hours to ensure that they are usable as exits. They must be marked with exit signs and posted with additional signs stating when they are to remain unlocked. Posts must establish a policy to ensure that these doors remain unlocked during business hours as a standard operating procedure. Exit doors with "thumbturn" type locks will not impede egress if they are clearly marked with signs illustrating the correct operation to lock and unlock them. (See Tab C-1 of the OBO Fire Protection Guide for illustrations.)

15 FAM 846.2 Emergency Egress and Security Doors

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)

(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

During an emergency evacuation of a building, it is vital that occupants get out quickly and safely. Security locks on doors in the path of egress must allow for unimpeded access to the exit without significant delay. The time delay on these locks must not exceed 15 seconds. Bureau of Diplomatic Security-approved security hardware sets (SHW) are the only approved door locks for office building doors. (See 12 FAH-5, Appendix G, for proper application.) Doors in this category include corridor doors, inner lobby doors, and other doors that provide eventual egress to the building exterior.

15 FAM 847 THROUGH 849 UNASSIGNED

15 FAM EXHIBIT 842

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TYPE AND PLACEMENT

(CT:OBO-1; 04-29-2005)
(Uniform State/USAID/Commerce/Agriculture/DIA)

LOCATION/ EXTINGUISHER TYPE PLACEMENT

OFFICE BUILDINGS

10# ABC Dry Chemical	Place in the corridors of the building so that the travel distance to the extinguisher does not exceed 23m (75 feet) from any point on each floor.
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MAINTENANCE SHOPS

20# ABC Dry Chemical	To be used in maintenance shops, warehouses, fuel storage and gasoline/diesel pumping stations. Maximum travel distance to an extinguisher should not exceed 15m (50 feet).
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RESIDENTIAL UNITS

10# ABC Dry Chemical	Place one extinguisher in or near the kitchen area in a visible location and one on each other level in multistory dwellings.
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For other applications or direction, see the OBO Fire Protection Guide or contact the Fire Protection Division in the Operations and Maintenance Office of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO/OM/FIR).